

DYFED POWYS FORUM (CAWES)

Friday 1st May 2009, 11:30am, Committee Room A, The Gwalia,
Llandrindod Wells

Present	
Susan King (Chair)	Powys County Council
Fiona Leadbitter	Welsh Assembly Government
Ken Humphries	Great Dane Care
Naomi Colling	Carmarthenshire County Council
Selina Duffy	Carmarthenshire County Council
Phil Evans	Carmarthenshire County Council
Nicola Daley	Carmarthenshire County Council
Nigel Watts	Pembrokeshire County Council
Lucy Thomas	Pembrokeshire County Council
Barry Sharp	Pembrokeshire County Council
Rachel Stevenson	Pembrokeshire County Council
Tony Evans	World Horse Welfare
Louise Scriven	RSPCA
Mike Tasker	Pembrokeshire County Council
Will Evans	Ceredigion County Council
B Price-Jones	Ceredigion County Council
Siân Edwards	Dogs Trust
Kim Rowe	Dogs Trust
Rachel Evans	Countryside Alliance
Louisa Talbot	Creature Comforts Rescue Centre
Stephen Talbot	Creature Comforts Rescue Centre
Sandra Scott	Powys Animal Welfare Trust
Adrian Cawdery	Lluest Horse & Pony Trust
Pauline Cawdery	Lluest Horse & Pony Trust
Ann Weir	BHS Powys Welfare
Tamlin Watson	The Donkey Sanctuary
In Attendance	
Hayley Hughes	Minute taker
Apologies	
Brian Davies	Ceredigion County Council
Sue Manning	Ceredigion County Council
Dafydd Evans	Animal Health
Molly Lloyd	Donkey Sanctuary

Education Launch

SK gave an introduction to the meeting, advising that the morning would be spent on the Education Launch, inviting attendees to view the various displays from participants and discuss any issues arising. SK further advised that the meeting of the forum would take place at 12.30 p.m. following a buffet lunch at 12.00 p.m. SK introduced the Chair of the Board for Powys County Council, Mr Michael Jones and Fiona Leadbitter of the Welsh Assembly Government to those present and invited them to make an address.

Cllr Jones welcomed all present to Powys County Council and Llandrindod Wells. Cllr Jones advised that he represented Powys County Council as a WJL Representative. He stated that he was pleased to see such a good scheme being launched and to see the local authorities and welfare organisations working together for the benefit of animal welfare. He then wished everyone a good day and a good launch.

Fiona Leadbitter advised that she was new to this area of work and welcomed all those present to the launch. Fiona stated that this initiative would give local authorities the opportunity to raise companion animal welfare standards in Wales and to understand the problems as one with the various welfare organisations. A major part of the scheme is the education of the public and getting the message across with the assistance of the partners. The education programme was to be targeted at 7-11 year olds in the hope that by educating the children they would educate the parents. A Welsh Assembly Government budget was available for the education programme with publicity material being provided to promote the message. A workbook had been developed for use by children which had been sent out to all Welsh Authorities. The workbook is based on the five freedoms of the Animal Welfare Act and contained activities on each freedom for the children to complete. The workbook would be given to children by trainers at training events being held at schools etc. Fiona advised that English Authorities were showing a great deal of interest in the Welsh initiative and DEFRA were interested in the outcomes from CAWES. Fiona informed those present that she had attended the Glamorgan launch of the education programme last week. The aim was for Wales to lead the way in Animal Welfare and encouraged all present to take it forward. She also asked those present to forward photographs from any events to the Welsh Assembly Government for use in future publicity.

	BUSINESS MEETING	Action
1.	Notes from last meeting	
1.1	The minutes of the last meeting held on 28 January 2009 were accepted as a true and accurate record.	
1.2	There were no matters arising.	

2.	Fiona Leadbitter	
2.1	Fiona Leadbitter provided an update on current special projects within Wales.	
2.2	It was announced that the review of baseline data meeting with local authorities that was due to take place at the end of April will now take place at the end of May/start of June.	
2.3	There was an update provided on other projects, many of which present the opportunity for partnership working; including the Wrexham equine project and the development of an all-Wales cat breeding project in Merthyr.	
2.4	It was noted that Torfaen are working on animal establishment licensing and that the outcomes from this will be fed to all local authorities in Wales.	
2.5	It was reported that there are still some bids that require further development before they can become special projects; including a project on animal welfare training. Siân Edwards asked which local authority needed to develop the animal welfare bid so that the Dogs Trust can contact them and offer assistance. Fiona Leadbitter confirmed that the local authority in this case is North Wales.	Siân Edwards
2.6	All of the third parties and charities present were urged to carry on their good work by continuing to get involved with partnership working on these special projects.	3 rd parties, charities
3.	Project Updates	
3.1	<u>Ceredigion County Council</u>	
3.1.1	An update was provided on Ceredigion's special project 'Welfare and Puppy Farming', in which it was reported that the statistics have 'jumped' since the last meeting.	
3.2	<u>Pembrokeshire County Council</u>	
3.2.1	An update was provided on Pembrokeshire's examination of licensing dog breeding establishments in Wales, which involves: looking at the procedures of other local authorities and offering remedies/alternative solutions; producing a best practice guide to facilitate a unified approach across Wales and introducing a comprehensive form for inspections. It was noted that detailed use has been made of questionnaires and surveys as part of this project. The report is to be finalised by 1 st August.	

3.2.2	It was noted that all inspections have been completed for the project regarding the import and export of animals and that results are now being collated.	
3.2.3	It was reported that the first draft of a best practice report for officers with regards to court procedures has been finished.	
3.2.4	The meeting was informed that a report regarding horse trade through ports is in the process of being produced. A discussion followed regarding lairage and the difficulties inherent in checking horses at ports.	
3.3	<u>Carmarthenshire County Council</u>	
3.3.1	A brief progress report was provided on Carmarthenshire's joint special project with Ceredigion; including an update of the visits and investigations undertaken as part of this project.	
3.3.2	It was reported that internet searches have been useful in uncovering the dealings of unlicensed breeders.	
3.4	<u>Powys County Council</u>	
3.4.1	A detailed update was provided on Powys County Council's Internet Trading Project (where officers monitor online traders and send details of any suspicious activity to the relevant local authority) and it was reported that there is funding available from the Welsh Assembly Government to roll this out across the whole of Wales.	
3.4.2	It was noted that the long term aim of this project is to lobby for a change in legislation relating to online trading and also to compile useful statistics from the internet trading database.	
3.4.3	It was requested that if anyone present has any more information that could assist with this project, could they please contact Sue King or Jo Davies.	
3.4.4.	The issue of timescales was raised and it was asked if referrals to local authorities could be emailed instantaneously as opposed to being part of a monthly summary. It was confirmed that the referral policy is in the process of being tightened up and that this should address these issues.	

4.	Any Other Business	
4.1	There was lengthy debate regarding Ceredigion Animal Rescue's request that the Kennel Club be informed when local authorities issue improvement notices to dog breeders, which would then enable the Kennel Club to refuse to register their puppies. This debate covered areas such as data protection, the Kennel Club's policy regarding inspections and a clarification of what 'improvement notices' actually signify. It was largely felt that a local authority should not be providing this kind of information to the Kennel Club.	
4.2	It was noted that there will be a working group meeting taking place in September regarding special projects relating to dog breeding. Anyone who would like to attend should contact Siân Edwards.	All
4.3	It was reported that a meeting of the APAW will be taking place on 1 st July. Siân Edwards to keep everyone updated.	Siân Edwards
4.4	It was requested that if there were any experts/charity representatives present who had not yet done so, could they please return their dog-breeding questionnaires to Pembrokeshire County Council at their earliest convenience.	Experts, charities
5.	Date of next meeting	
5.1	The next meeting will take place during August in Carmarthenshire. Exact details to be confirmed nearer to the time.	